

The AFCARS Report

Interim FY 1999 Estimates as of June 2001 (6)

How many children were in foster care on September 30, 1999? 581,000

SOURCE: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY 1999, 10/1/98 through 9/30/99.

NOTES: The number of jurisdictions submitting useable foster care data was 49 including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Although the percentage distributions within questions have remained relatively constant since the first report (TAR 1), there is considerable variation in the estimated numbers. This is due in part to improvements in the quality of the data and to the use of different estimation procedures. (See TAR 5 for a detailed discussion of the various estimation procedures that have been utilized.) TAR 6 includes entries and discharges reported in FY 2000 that occurred during FY 1999. Data from both regular and revised submissions received by March 21, 2001 are included in the estimates. Some percentages do not add up to 100% and/or the estimated numbers do not add up to the total number in the category due to rounding.

What were the ages of the children in foster care?

Mean Yrs	9.9	
Median Yrs	10.1	
Under 1 Yr	4%	23,396
1 thru 5 Yrs	25%	143,268
6 thru 10 Yrs	26%	150,574
11 thru 15 Yrs	28%	164,134
16 thru 18 Yrs	16%	90,293
19 + Yrs	2%	9,335

What were the placement settings of children in foster care?

Pre-Adoptive Home	4%	22,484
Foster Family Home (Relative)	26%	151,864
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	47%	274,100
Group Home	8%	46,279
Institution	10%	57,590
Supervised Independent Living	1%	4,979
Runaway	1%	7,886
Trial Home Visit	3%	15,818

What were the lengths of stay for the children in foster care?

Mean Months	32	
Median Months	20	
< 1 Month	4%	24,329
1 to 5 Mos	16%	94,044
6 to 11 Mos	15%	85,036
12 to 17 Mos	11%	65,014
18 to 23 Mos	9%	51,985
24 to 29 Mos	8%	43,918
30 to 35 Mos	6%	33,269
3 to 4 Yrs	15%	85,128
5 Yrs or More	17%	98,276

What were the case goals of the children in foster care?

Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s)	42%	242,571
Live with Other Relative(s)	5%	26,368
Adoption	19%	107,581
Long Term Foster Care	8%	48,828
Emancipation	6%	32,960
Guardianship	3%	17,608
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	18%	105,084

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 1999 (continued)

What was the race/ethnicity of the children in foster care?			What was the gender of the children in foster care?		
White Non-Hispanic	34%	199,735	Male	52%	303,157
Black Non-Hispanic	39%	223,751	Female	48%	277,843
Hispanic	17%	98,396			
AI/AN Non-Hispanic	2%	9,475			
Asian/PI Non-Hispanic	1%	6,109			
UnKnown/Unable to Determine	7%	43,533			

NOTE: Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

How many children entered foster care during FY 1999? 297,000

What were the ages of the children who entered care during FY 1999?			What was the race/ethnicity of the children who entered care during FY 1999?		
Mean Yrs	8.6		White Non-Hispanic	43%	126,697
Median Yrs	8.7		Black Non-Hispanic	27%	80,573
			Hispanic	16%	48,081
Under 1 Yr	13%	39,103	AI/AN Non-Hispanic	2%	7,146
1 thru 5 Yrs	25%	73,717	Asian/PI Non-Hispanic	2%	4,543
6 thru 10 Yrs	22%	64,407	UnKnown/Unable to Determine	10%	29,960
11 thru 15 Yrs	29%	86,446			
16 thru 18 Yrs	11%	33,057			
19+ Yrs	0%	269			

NOTE: Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

How many children exited foster care during FY 1999? 251,000

What were the ages of the children who exited care during FY 1999?			What was the race/ethnicity of the children who exited care during FY 1999?		
Mean Yrs	10.3		White Non-Hispanic	42%	105,974
Median Yrs	10.4		Black Non-Hispanic	29%	72,862
			Hispanic	15%	38,327
Under 1 Yr	4%	10,216	AI/AN Non-Hispanic	2%	6,073
1 thru 5 Yrs	26%	64,267	Asian/PI Non-Hispanic	2%	3,962
6 thru 10 Yrs	23%	57,352	UnKnown/Unable to Determine	9%	23,803
11 thru 15 Yrs	24%	61,093			
16 thru 18 Yrs	21%	52,738			
19 + Yrs	2%	5,334			

NOTE: Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Children who exited foster care (Continued)

What were the lengths of stay of the children who exited foster care during FY 1999?

Mean Months	22	
Median Months	11	
< 1 Month	21%	52,787
1 to 5 Mos	17%	43,351
6 to 11 Mos	14%	34,481
12 to 17 Mos	11%	26,731
18 to 23 Mos	8%	19,087
24 to 29 Mos	5%	13,766
30 to 35 Mos	4%	10,644
3 to 4 Yrs	10%	26,098
5 Yrs or More	10%	24,055

What were the outcomes for the children exiting foster care during FY 1999?

Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	59%	147,640
Living with Other Relative(s)	10%	24,953
Adoption	16%	38,944
Emancipation	7%	18,554
Guardianship	3%	7,396
Transfer to Another Agency	3%	7,714
Runaway	2%	5,232
Death of Child	0%	564

NOTE: Deaths are attributable to a variety of causes including medical conditions, accidents and homicide.

How many children were waiting to be adopted on September 30, 1999? 127,000

NOTES: Waiting children are identified as children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. Children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the estimate.

What is the gender distribution of the waiting children?

Male	52%	66,388
Female	48%	60,612

What is the racial/ethnic distribution of the waiting children?

White Non-Hispanic	32%	40,799
Black Non-Hispanic	42%	53,791
Hispanic	15%	19,108
AI/AN Non-Hispanic	1%	1,031
Asian/PI Non-Hispanic	1%	1,792
UnKnown/Unable to Determine	8%	9,716

NOTE: Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

How old were the waiting children when they were removed from their parents or caretakers?

Mean Yrs	4.3	
Median Yrs	3.5	

How old were the waiting children on September 30, 1999?

Mean Yrs	7.9	
Median Yrs	7.7	

less than 1	28%	35,732
1-5	41%	51,565
6-10	24%	30,865
11-15	7%	8,471
16-18	0%	354

less than 1	3%	3,786
1-5	34%	43,270
6-10	35%	45,028
11-15	23%	29,806
16-18	3%	4,275

Children waiting to be adopted on September 30, 1999 (Continued)

How many months have the waiting children been in continuous foster care?			Where were the waiting children living on September 30, 1999?		
Mean Months	44		Pre-Adoptive Home	15%	18,936
Median Months	36		Foster Family Home (Relative)	19%	23,770
			Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	58%	73,268
less than 1 month	1%	826	Group Home	3%	3,879
1 through 5 months	4%	5,311	Institution	5%	6,274
6 through 11 months	7%	8,993	Supervised Independent Living	0%	110
12 through 17 months	9%	11,673	Runaway	0%	370
18 through 23 months	10%	12,413	Trial Home Visit	0%	394
24 through 29 months	10%	13,333			
30 through 35 months	9%	11,493			
36 through 59 months	24%	30,988			
60 or more months	25%	31,969			

How many children in foster care had their parental rights terminated for all living parents? 64,000

As of September 30, 1999, how many months had elapsed since the parental rights of these foster children were terminated?

Mean Months	21
Median Months	13

How many children were adopted from the public foster care system in FY 1999? 46,000

SOURCE: Adoptions can be reported to the AFCARS adoption database at any time after the adoption has been finalized. TAR 6 includes adoptions finalized in FY 1999 reported in regular and revised submissions by May 1, 2001 for FY 1998 and FY 1999 reports and by March 21, 2001 for FY 2000 reports.

NOTES: The number of jurisdictions reporting useable data was 52 including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Some percentages do not add up to 100% and/or the estimated numbers do not add up to the total number in the category due to rounding.

What is the gender distribution of the children adopted from the public foster care system?			What is the racial/ethnic distribution of the children adopted from the public foster care system?		
Male	50%	22,951	White Non-Hispanic	38%	17,341
Female	50%	23,049	Black Non-Hispanic	45%	20,618
			Hispanic	15%	7,021
			Asian/PI Non-Hispanic	1%	474
			AI/AN Non-Hispanic	1%	100

NOTE: Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Children Adopted in FY 1999 (Continued)

How old were the children when they were adopted from the public foster care system?

Mean Yrs	6.9
Median Yrs	6.4

How many months did it take after termination of parental rights for the children to be adopted?

Mean Months	16
Median Months	12

under 1	2%	831
1-5	45%	20,708
6-10	36%	16,498
11-15	15%	7,021
16-18	2%	901
19+	0%	42

<1 mos	3%	1,509
1-5 mos	18%	8,432
6-11 mos	30%	13,826
12-17 mos	19%	8,821
18-23 mos	11%	5,032
24-29 mos	6%	2,926
30-35 mos	4%	1,721
3-4 yrs	6%	2,747
5+ yrs	0%	10

What proportion of the children adopted are receiving an adoption subsidy?

Yes	88%	40,423
No	12%	5,577

What was the relationship of the adoptive parents to the child prior to the adoption?

non-relative	20%	9,164
foster parent	64%	29,387
step-parent	0%	96
other relative	16%	7,353

NOTE: Relatives who were also foster parents were counted as relatives.

Adoptive Family Structure

Married Couple	66%	30,233
Unmarried Couple	1%	403
Single Female	31%	14,392
Single Male	2%	972